

upper and lower tread mold members for forming a tire tread portion, said upper and lower tread mold members being attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively;

said upper and lower tread mold members being constituted of upper segments and lower segments, respectively, said upper and lower segments being displaceable only radially relative to said upper and lower sidewall mold members, respectively; and

a single cam ring in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members, the single cam ring being displaceable independently of approaching displacements of said sidewall mold members toward each other, to thereby simultaneously displace all of said upper and lower segments radially inwards while the single cam ring remains in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members and while said upper and lower segments are in abutment with each other.

6. (Twice Amended) A vulcanizing method for vulcanizing pneumatic tires with a vulcanizing mold which comprises: (i) upper and lower base plates; (ii) upper and lower sidewall mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively; and (iii) upper and lower tread mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively, the upper and lower tread mold members being in direct engagement with a cam ring; (iv) said upper and lower tread mold members being constituted of upper segments and lower segments, respectively, which are radially expanded and contracted relative to the upper and lower sidewall mold members, respectively; said method comprising the steps of:

displacing said upper and lower sidewall mold members toward each other so that said upper and lower segments are brought into abutment with each other; and

operating the cam ring while the cam ring remains in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members to simultaneously displace all of said segments